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IS BRITNEY WRITING A NOVEL? {page 13}

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Tuesday, November 6, 2012

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books

Anna Goldfarb can see 'Clearly' now {page 15}

style

Which candidate gets your fashion vote? {page 17}

local

After Sandy, finding a warm spot to sleep {page 02}

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Cold front threatens city's displaced after hurricane

Another storm coming this week ◗ But thousands still need a safe, warm place to sleep ◗ City opens warming centers during daytime

With temperatures dropping and a storm boasting 40- to 50-mile-per-hour winds predicted to descend on the city tomorrow, city officials are scrambling to keep displaced and homeless New Yorkers safe and warm.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg told reporters that as many as 40,000 people could need new housing after the storm, half public-housing residents.

Yesterday at a Brooklyn public school, he reminded New Yorkers of the signs of hypothermia, like shivering and confusion, warning people to watch for this in themselves and those around them.

Warming shelters have been set up around the city, operating in every borough from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with some including overnight hours that offer transportation via city buses.

"Every New Yorker who needs a warm place to live and a roof over his or her head is going to have one," Mayor Bloomberg promised.

Bloomberg created a new post yesterday, director of housing recovery operations, and appointed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Brad Gair to be responsible for coming up with a plan to house the thousands of New Yorkers.

As of yesterday, 4,472 people remain in general evacuation shelters, with an addition 776 in special-needs medical shelters.

The city has now consolidated the original 76 shelters down to 15.

After assessing buildings in Zone A, the city found 106 buildings without electricity, and about a quarter of the elevator pits and boiler rooms still needed to be "de-watered."

Many shelters have been struggling since the storm. In the early aftermath of the storm, most problems revolved around generators. The Lower East Side's Seward Park shelter's generator was overwhelmed after being inundated by charging cell phones, and Matt Krivitch at the Bowery Mission told Metro they had operated with a single generator.

"We've got one generator trying to keep our cooler and freezers running so that we don't lose our food, and we're still serving 600 to 800 meals a day," Krivitch said last week. "Some of the other shelters in the area that are unable to provide meals are sending people over to eat here."

Other shelters have been completely destroyed by flooding, including the Ali Forney Center's intake location at West 22nd Street near the Hudson.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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Keeping warm

Daytime warming shelters:

200
Total shelters

68
Shelters in Brooklyn

50
Shelters in Manhattan

46
Shelters in Queens

40
Shelters in the Bronx

6
Shelters in Staten Island

Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 311 for locations.

ALLISON JOYCE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Residents of Breezy Point, where more than 100 houses burned down, and all over the Rockaways and Staten Island are without housing as a cold front moves in.

Quoted

"Every New Yorker who needs a warm place to live and a roof over his or her head is going to have one."
MAYOR BLOOMBERG

Homeless numbers

How many people are still homeless?

4,472
People in general evacuation shelters

776
People in the special-needs medical shelters

965
Staff in shelters

15
Shelters

In the news

Gas lines, arrests linger

NEW YORK. New Yorkers are still facing gas shortages. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said yesterday the gas supply is increasing, with barges unloading about 21 million gallons of gas this weekend. The mayor said a police officer has been posted at every gas station in the city "to keep order and to encourage gas-station owners to remain open." Police reported 41 arrests stemming from gas lines. METRO/AB

In the news

Counterfeiters

BROOKLYN. Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is indicting two men after an undercover investigation conducted with the Department of Homeland Security. The as-yet-unidentified defendants are accused of trafficking counterfeit IDs, including Social Security cards, green cards and drivers' licenses. The IDs were sold at a Sunset Park bakery, prosecutors said. METRO/DT

Groups, restaurants offer charging stations

NEW YORK. For New Yorkers still without power, a variety of places are offering free charging outlets.

Verizon has opened free charging stations at a list of stores, including ones in Flushing, Harlem, Staten Island and Elmhurst. Another is open near Union Square on Second Avenue. Call the store first to make sure it is open for charging.

Another store offering charging is 16 Handles frozen yogurt, with outlets available at stores including Greenwich Village, Williamsburg and Astoria. In Staten Island, Snug Harbor Cultural Center will provide a center for warming up, charging and nabbing free Wi-Fi from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. this week. METRO/AB

▶ Greenpeace is sending a charging truck to Rockaway.

MICHAEL NAGLE/GREENPEACE

In the news

AG launches gasoline gouging investigation

NEW YORK. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman launched an investigation yesterday into post-storm price gouging after consumers flooded his office with complaints about jacked-up prices for everything from gasoline to hotel rooms.

Schneiderman's announcement came as AAA, the national auto club that tracks gas trends, said prices in some storm-stricken zones have risen by 15 cents a gallon in the week since Sandy struck, even as the national gas price keeps falling.

"Our office has zero tolerance for price gouging," Schneiderman said. "We are actively investigating hundreds of complaints we've received." REUTERS

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In the news

OWS resurfaces with hurricane relief efforts

NEW YORK. Nearly one year after Occupy Wall Street's infamous eviction from Zuccotti Park, protesters have resurfaced and refocused their efforts on helping local victims of Hurricane Sandy. Activists have started a website and a volunteer campaign dubbed Occupy Sandy, which organizes drop-off locations for supplies and meeting points for those who wish to volunteer at areas ravaged by the storm. The newly-launched occupysandy.org is a coalition of groups, including Occupy Wall Street, 350.org, recovers.org and interoccupy.net. It is being updated regularly with a list of items that are needed, like batteries, blankets and cleaning supplies. The coalition is asking volunteers to meet at several locations, including St. Jacobi Church in Sunset Park, before transporting them to some of the city's hardest hit neighborhoods in New York and New Jersey. **METRO/CG**

Waiting for the G and L trains

BROOKLYN. New Yorkers who depend on the L and the G trains are waiting for their train lines to return back to normal. According to the MTA, getting the G and L trains running again are the top priority. "Crews are working around the clock on both," according to the MTA's Twitter feed, which suggested Brooklynites hop on the East River Ferry instead.

Sandy changes voting locations

According to estimates from the Board of Elections, some 143,000 voters in NYC probably need to double-check their polling location before going out to vote today.

With some public schools still closed from the storm, polling stations are being relocated and consolidated around the city.

The Board of Elections provided a document online outlining the relocations by borough and have updated their online search tool to reflect the new locations.

Voters can also text "NYCVOTES" to 877-877. Spanish-speaking voters can text "DONDE."

Mayor Bloomberg estimated "a total of something like 61" polling sites have been relocated: 28 in Queens, 24 in Brooklyn, three in Manhattan, three in the Bronx and two in Staten Island.

Bloomberg also said that NYC Service volunteers are letting voters know about their new polling sites.

All poll sites in the city should be be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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Before you vote

- **Text:** NYCVOTES to 877-877
- **Online:** vote.nyc.ny.us

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Voting booths stand at the ready in the East Village.

Displaced voters

Some officials also expressed concerns about voters who were displaced by the storm and may not be able to return to the neighborhood in which they're registered.

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced last night that he had signed an executive order allowing New Yorkers displaced by Hurricane Sandy to vote by affidavit from any polling station if they are unable to make it to the one where they are registered.

Red? Blue? Grab a colorful cocktail and settle in for the election

If you think you may need a stiff drink to get through the state-by-state election results, don't worry — we've got you covered. Here are a few places ready with election-style drinks:

SideBAR will be ready for Romney fans, with a $5 "Rumney" shot for Republican supporters.

The Village Pourhouse, in contrast, will be offering $5 "Barack O-Bombs" for Democratic diehards. People in both spots will be dressed as the presidential candidates.

In SoHo, The Vault at Pfaff's will host a viewing party from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., featuring live coverage and election cocktails like the Boston-inspired cocktail "Ward Eight," with a New England lobster roll, or on the other side, a "Chicago Cocktail" and another Windy City-inspired bite, a hot dog.

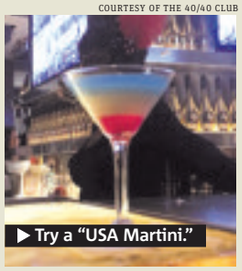
If you're more in the mood for food, Neely's Barbecue Parlor on the Upper East Side will offer "Barack's Bowl of Chili" and "Mitt's Mini Meatloaf," both for $5.95. Wash it down with a "Bipartisan Margarita," $5.

Carmine's in Midtown has a few Election Day cocktails: "Another 4 Years" with whiskey, blueberries, fresh lemon and lime, and "The New Guy in Town" with cranberries, Absolut Cherrykran and lemonade.

The Tea Party even gets a nod here, with "The Tea People" for $12, featuring hard cider and vodka.

ALISON BOWEN

COURTESY OF THE 40/40 CLUB



▶ Try a "USA Martini."

The 40/40 Club

Jay-Z's 40/40 Club in Midtown will offer the "USA Martini," which is a cocktail with Godiva white chocolate liqueur, grenadine, blueberry vodka, vanilla vodka and blue Curacao.

COURTESY OF THE R LOUNGE

▶ Take a seat at the R Lounge.

The R Lounge

If you happen to be in Times Square, hit up the R Lounge at the Renaissance New York Times Square Hotel, which will offer red, white and blue chips and dips with patriotically colored drinks.

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US soldier charged with killing 16 Afghans appears in court

A U.S. Army soldier charged with killing 16 Afghan civilians in a drunken rampage in March sat quietly in a military courtroom yesterday as prosecutors outlined their case, accusing him of two murderous forays from his barracks into nearby villages.

Prosecutor Jay Morse said he would present evidence proving "chilling premeditation" on the part of Staff Sergeant Robert Bales, a decorated veteran of four combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan who is accused of the mass killings.

The shootings of mostly women and children in Afghanistan's Kandahar province marked the worst civilian slaughter by U.S. forces since the Vietnam War and eroded already strained U.S.-Afghan ties after more than a decade of conflict in the country.

At the end, military commanders will decide whether there is sufficient evidence to refer the case for trial by court martial.

Bales, dressed in camouflage Army fatigues, his head shaven, embraced his wife in court before the hearing began. He then sat silently watching the proceedings from the defense table as Morse summarized the prosecution's account of the events of March 11.

According to Morse, Bales had been drinking and paid a brief visit to the room of a fellow soldier before he left the Army post, called Camp Belambay, and went to a village where he committed the first set of slayings.

Bales, who is not expected to testify during the so-called Article 32 hearing, had been confined at a military prison in Kansas from March until he was moved in October to Lewis-McChord, where his infantry regiment was based. **REUTERS**

Quoted

Prosecutor Jay Morse called Bales' actions "deliberate, methodical."

The charges

- Bales faces 16 counts of premeditated murder and six counts of attempted murder, as well as charges of assault and wrongfully possessing and using steroids and alcohol while deployed. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.
- The hearing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state is expected to last two weeks and include witness testimony in Afghanistan carried by live video, including villagers and Afghan soldiers.

Described as wearing a cape

The prosecution then showed a video shot by night-vision camera from a surveillance balloon over the camp, showing a figure they identified as Bales walking back to the post wearing what they described as a cape.

He is seen being confronted by three soldiers, who order him to drop his weapons and take him into custody.

Prosecutors said Bales had been armed with an M-1 rifle, a pistol and a grenade launcher during the killings. **REUTERS**

News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

Recreational coke users at heightened heart attack risk: Study

NEW YORK. Occasional users of cocaine have higher blood pressure, stiffer arteries and thicker cardiac muscle walls — all risks for heart attacks — than non-users, according to a study.

The heart abnormalities were found in recreational cocaine users long after the effects of the drug wore off, researchers said in a study presented yesterday at the American Heart Association's annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The research was inspired by a wave of cocaine-related heart abnormalities in otherwise healthy adults, according to a statement released by the medical group. **BLOOMBERG**

Boy's death at zoo called into question

PITTSBURGH. The mother of a 2-year-old boy who died after falling into a pit of African wild dogs at the Pittsburgh Zoo stood him up on a railing before he fell and was immediately attacked by 11 dogs, police said.

The boy was visiting the zoo with his 34-year-old mother, who had put him on the railing for a better view of the animals, known as African painted dogs.

Authorities are trying to determine if the boy died from the fall or the attack, Pittsburgh police spokeswoman Diane Richard said yesterday.

Eleven dogs swarmed the boy after he fell. Zookeepers rushed to the exhibit area housing the animals, firing darts to frighten them away from the child before police arrived.

Zoo staff secured 10 of the dogs but police entered the pit and fired multiple gunshots to kill the last dog, which was particularly aggressive toward the child and the officers, authorities said. **REUTERS**

Storm. Gas lines

▶ In New York, 27 percent of gas stations surveyed by the Energy Department's data arm were without fuel on Sunday.

GETTY IMAGES

New York gasoline lines remain

The New York Harbor energy network was returning to normal on Sunday, with mainline power restored nearly a week after Hurricane Sandy pummeled the eastern seaboard. Yet damage to infrastructure near Linden, New Jersey, a major northeast fuel hub, kept a major refinery and some terminals shut, lending longer life to gasoline shortages that have persisted in the region. REUTERS

Apple sells 3M new iPads in first weekend

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Apple said that demand for the new iPads was so strong that it "practically sold out of iPad minis."

Apple Inc. sold 3 million of its new iPads in the first three days the tablet computers were available, driving optimism for a strong holiday quarter despite intensifying competition.

Sales of the 7.9-inch iPad mini and fourth-generation 9.7-inch version, both models that are Wi-Fi only, were double the first-weekend sales of the Wi-Fi iPad sold in March, Apple said yesterday.

Apple did not break out numbers for the crucial iPad mini, a smaller version of the original tablet designed to spearhead its foray into a segment now dominated by Amazon.com and Google.

Two models

Apple had never before introduced two different iPad models in one quarter. Raymond James analyst Tavis McCourt said that while the sales number looked good, the company would need to sell another 20 million iPads this quarter to meet his estimate.

Analysts estimate that about 2.3 million of the new iPads sold over the weekend were the mini-tablets, surpassing expectations of 1 million to 1.5 million.

Wall Street, which was disappointed with Apple's latest quarterly earnings, had been looking to the iPad mini to boost demand during the crucial year-end holiday shopping season as competition reaches a fever pitch. Microsoft Corp. became the latest major entrant to the market last month with the Windows-driven Surface.

While lines for the new iPads appeared lighter than usual when they began selling at stores on Friday, the company said demand was so strong that it "practically sold out of iPad minis." **REUTERS**

News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

Shakespeares plays available on apps

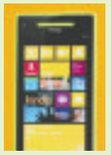
TORONTO. Shakespeare's plays are getting a 21st century-style makeover in the form of new apps for tablets and smartphones, nearly 500 years after the Bard took pen to parchment.

Plays such as "Romeo and Juliet" and "Macbeth" spring to life in iPad apps released by Cambridge University Press, which pairs the texts with audio performances, commentary and other interactive content, transforming the classic plays for the digital age. **REUTERS**

Microsoft wooing developers for new operating system

SEATTLE. Days after launching Windows 8, Microsoft Corp. is mounting a strong campaign to win over the software developers it needs to kick-start its new operating system.

A lack of apps is Microsoft's Achilles heel as it attempts to catch Apple Inc. and Google Inc. in the rush toward mobile computing.



Windows 8, the new Surface tablet and a range of Windows-based phones — all unveiled in the past week — are designed to close that gap, but the company still needs to convince developers to recreate the thriving "ecosystem" that made PCs so successful. **REUTERS**

Heartbeat, not battery, could power pacemakers

LOS ANGELES. Your own beating heart may generate enough electricity to power a heart-regulating pacemaker, ending the need for expensive surgeries to replace expiring batteries, according to an early study of an experimental energy-converting device.

Researchers at the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Michigan tested an energy-harvesting device that runs on piezoelectricity — the electrical charge generated from motion — according to the study, which was released at the annual American Heart Association scientific conference. **REUTERS**

Metro photo challenge

▶ "Indian Scops Owl" is by Jane Dixon, Lexington, Mass.

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Sandy victims warned as nor'easter set to hit

With 84 percent of electricity restored after Hurricane Sandy, power companies zeroed in on devastated coastal areas in New York and New Jersey as an approaching winter storm threatens lives.

About 1.4 million homes and businesses remain without power a week after Sandy's winds and record tides swamped Lower Manhattan and destroyed the electrical infrastructure in New Jersey's seaside communities. Officials advised residents to flee their darkened homes for warm shelters, as an approaching storm is expected to bring near-freezing temperatures, winds as high as 55 miles per hour and additional flooding as soon as tonight.

In Wayne, New Jersey, Robert Mesuk, 76, and his wife, Sandra, 73, were huddling next to the fireplace in their townhome to stay warm as they entered their second week in the dark. Their utility, owned by PSE&G told them they wouldn't have power back until Nov. 10.

Along the coast, the infrastructure is gone," New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said yesterday in a press conference. "Things that took months or years to build are gone. How quickly we can get it back, I'm not sure." **BLOOMBERG**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Those in hardest-hit areas would have to wait as long as 14 days for electricity, and it may be even longer for some.

In the dark

New Jersey and New York made up about 92 percent of the blackout map today. About 20 percent of New Jersey is still without power.

Quoted

"We've got no heating, no cable, Internet or TV. Our land phone is out."

ROBERT MESUK

In the news

HSBC fears US money laundering fines to top $1.5B

A U.S. fine for violating federal anti-money-laundering laws could cost HSBC Holdings significantly more than $1.5 billion and is likely to lead to criminal charges as well, the bank said yesterday.

HSBC said the U.S. investigation had damaged the bank's reputation and forced it to set aside a further $800 million to cover a potential fine for breaches in anti-money-laundering controls in Mexico and other violations. The provision was on top of $700 million it put aside in July. **REUTERS**

News in brief

Army general pulled rank, forced sex, says military court

An Army general used his superior rank to force five women into improper sexual relations, military prosecutors said yesterday at a hearing to determine if he should face a court martial.

Brigadier General Jeffrey Sinclair, who is based at Fort Bragg, is accused of 26 violations of military law. They include forcible sodomy, wrongful sexual conduct, possessing pornography while deployed and conduct unbecoming of an officer.

The charges stem from inappropriate behavior toward four female subordinates and one civilian over the last five years, Army prosecutors said, revealing new details about the charges announced against Sinclair in September. **REUTERS**

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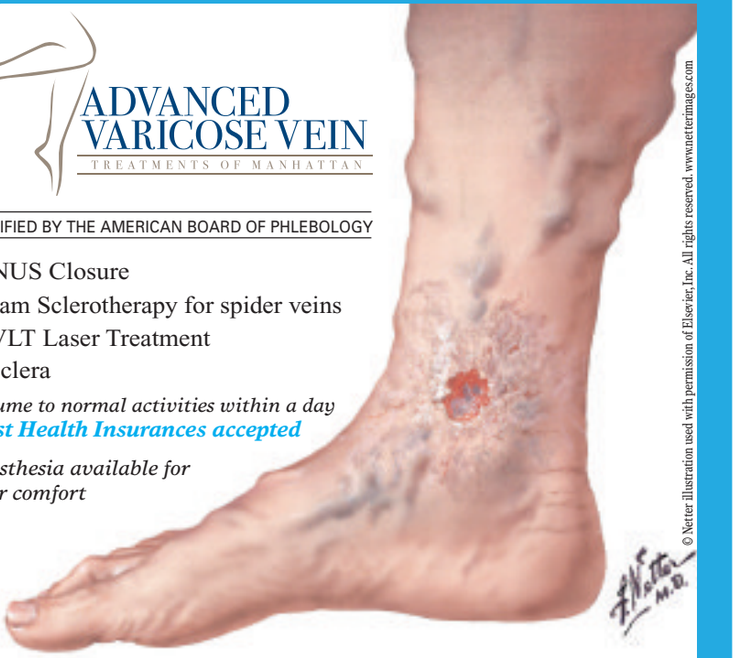

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Dead heat for the ultimate seat

Neither incumbent nor challenger has done much to separate himself Or is it the polarization of America? What it really means: Unlikely we have a president by tonight

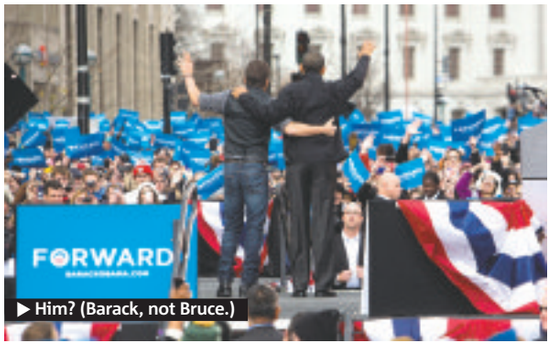
According to the latest poll numbers released yesterday, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are in a dead heat for the presidential seat, with an average of about 49 percent of voters committed to each candidate.

By way of comparison, Obama led John McCain by more than 7 percentage points at the same point during the 2008 race. In fact, this may be the closest election since John F. Kennedy squeaked by Richard Nixon in 1960, winning the popular vote by only .16 percent.

"We're a deeply polarized country," Terry Madonna, pollster with Franklin & Marshall College, said. "It's still basically an election about the economy and some voters are not convinced we're out of the recession and things are getting better. That's why the election is as close as it is." He said Romney has made great strides in garnering voter confidence regarding economic issues and has also gained on Obama when it comes to likeability.

Madonna predicts that with those areas a virtual draw, the too-close-to-call election's outcome will now largely hinge on voter turnout. "Both parties are really focusing on get-out-the-vote drives, which are probably more important than in any other election in modern time," he said. He pointed to the special importance of several key battleground states, such as Florida, Virginia, Colorado and Ohio. "Nobody's going to fight too much in New York because they know who's going to win that state," he said. "The same with Texas. The battle is going to happen where it's close and only thousands of votes are separating the candidates. Whichever party can turn out its voters in those pivotal states will probably win this. This is now a ground game, a turn-out-the vote-election."

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



▶ Him? (Barack, not Bruce.)

▶ Or him? (Mitt, not Ann.)

Quoted

"This is now a ground game, a turn-out-the vote-election."
TERRY MADONNA

Battleground trenches

Regardless, Madonna said there's a good chance that a clear winner won't emerge tonight.

"You could have some states so contested that there will be court battles and challenges, which are already underway in states with early voting," he said. "Most analysts think the president has a slight edge in the battleground states, but no one knows for sure what's likely to happen."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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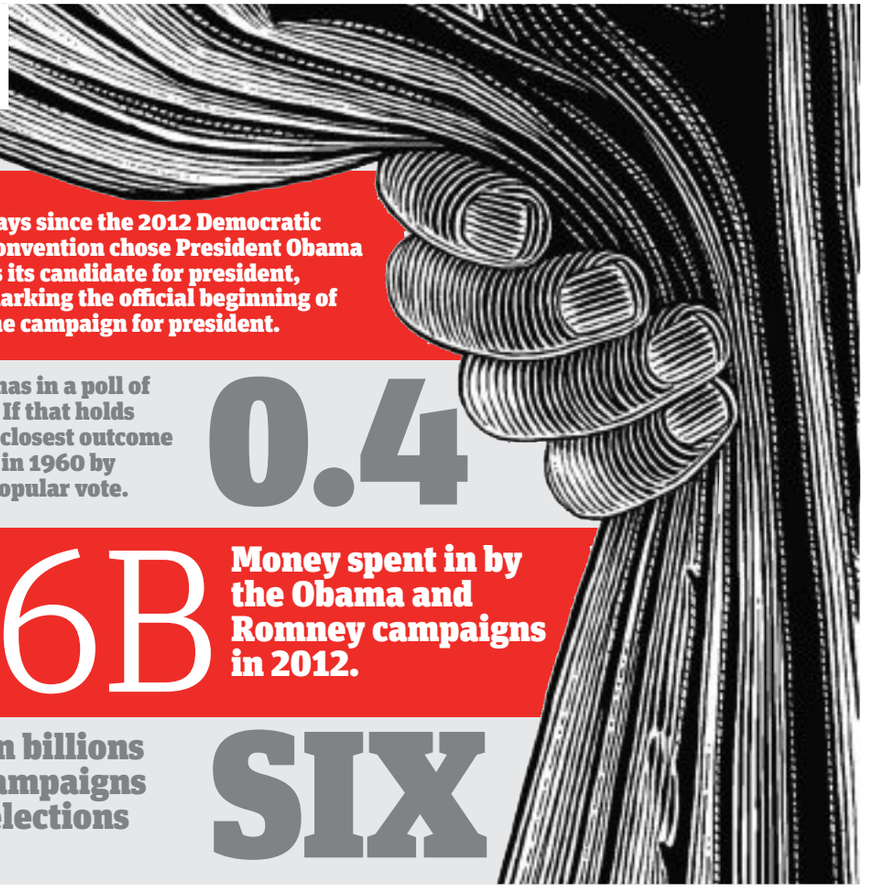
By the numbers



61 Days since the 2012 Democratic Convention chose President Obama as its candidate for president, marking the official beginning of the campaign for president.

0.4 Percent lead Obama has in a poll of polls of likely voters. If that holds true, it would be the closest outcome since JFK beat Nixon in 1960 by 0.16-percent of the popular vote.

$2.6B Money spent in by the Obama and Romney campaigns in 2012.

SIX Total dollars in billions spending by campaigns in all federal elections this year.

Too close to call, from the very beginning

Here is a snapshot of several key polls throughout the race:

GALLUP

- **Aug. 11-17:** Obama 45, Romney 47 – Romney took the lead a week before he officially received his party's nomination at the Republican National Committee Convention.
- **Sept. 5-11:** Obama 50, Romney 43 – Obama saw big gains immediately following the Democratic convention, which ended Sept. 6.
- **Sept. 14-20:** Obama 47, Romney 47 – Romney pulled even after the violence in Egypt and Libya and a disappointing jobs report.
- **Sept. 25-Oct. 1:** Obama 50, Romney 44 – Romney lost ground after struggling to explain his "47 percent" comment, which was secretly recorded at a fundraising event.
- **Oct. 9-15:** Obama 47, Romney 47 – Romney invigorated his supporters and climbed back into the race following the first presidential debate.
- **Oct. 14-20:** Obama 46, Romney 49 – Even though most analysts thought Obama outperformed his opponent in the second debate, Romney was still riding a surge.
- **Oct. 21-27:** Obama 48, Romney 47 – The third and final debate gave the president a boost.

WASHINGTON POST-ABC NEWS

- **Aug. 25:** Obama 47, Romney 49
- **Sept. 9:** Obama 49, Romney 48
- **Sept. 29:** Obama 49, Romney 47
- **Oct. 13:** Obama 49, Romney 46
- **Oct. 21:** Obama 49, Romney 48

RASMUSSEN

- **Sept. 7-9:** Obama 50, Romney 45
- **Sept. 14-16:** Obama 45, Romney 47
- **Oct. 1-3:** Obama 49, Romney 47
- **Oct. 4-6:** Obama 47, Romney 49
- **Oct. 30-Nov. 1:** Obama 48, Romney 48

In big election, bigger mouths spread across Net's wide, wild blogosphere

"During a campaign stop in Colorado today, President Obama sneezed as he defended his health care plan. 'It gives me a cold just thinking about what they might do,' Obama joked. Obama then repeated his line from earlier today, that Romney's plan for health care should be called the 'Romney-doesn't-Care' plan." **– AUG. 28, CHARLIE SPIERING FOR THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER'S BELTWAY CONFIDENTIAL, "OBAMA SNEEZES WHILE DEFENDING OBAMACARE; BLAMES IT ON REPUBLICANS"**

"Obama — no surprise — is winning news cycles, but Romney is winning the election. And he is doing so because a majority of the American people have simply had enough nastiness, enough radicalism, enough of this president."
NOV. 3, JOEL POLLAK FOR BREITBART, "WHY ROMNEY WILL WIN"

"At the second debate, somebody asked how Bush and Romney differ. I'll give you the answer: Romney's taller, Mormon and a little smarter and meaner." **– OCT. 29, STEPHEN STILLS FOR ROLLING STONE, "STEPHEN STILLS ON MITT ROMNEY: 'I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE A CREEPIER POLITICIAN THAN NIXON'"**

"Barack Obama's campaign is running radio ads in Virginia featuring a montage of uncomfortable Mitt Romney moments ... Listeners hear the former Massachusetts governor saying: 'Corporations are people, my friend ... Let Detroit go bankrupt ... Borrow money if you have to ... Who let the dogs out? Who? Who?'" **– NOV. 3, ALEXANDER HABER FOR POLITICO, "OBAMA AD QUOTES ROMNEY: 'WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?'"**

"Obama has done nothing but drag his feet and procrastinate about being unabashedly evil deep into his fourth year. Where is the colossal statue of him that springs to life and kills Christians? Where is the fire pouring out of the sky into the eyes of men? I don't even think he's drawn up any schematics." **– SEPT. 21, SOREN BOWIE FOR CRACKED.COM, "WHY OBAMA IS THE LEAST EFFICIENT ANTICHRIST EVER"**

"The Obama campaign has targeted and intimidated Republican donors on an Internet enemies list. It has engaged in the juvenile mockery of Mitt Romney's singing. It has suggested, without evidence, that Romney may have committed the felony of falsifying FEC documents." **– AUG. 17, MICHAEL GERSON FOR REAL CLEAR POLITICS, "OBAMA'S BETRAYAL"**

News in pictures

Lots to see along the 2012 campaign trail

GETTY IMAGES

1: Singer Katy Perry performs at a campaign rally for U.S. President Barack Obama at Doolittle Park in Las Vegas.

2: Election cookies of President Barack Obama and Republican candidate Mitt Romney are made at the Oakmont Bakery in Oakmont, Penn.

3: People wear cowboy hats during the second day of the Democratic National Convention at Time Warner Cable Arena on Sept. 5 in Charlotte, N.C.

4: Kid Rock (L) and Congressman Paul Ryan attend the Congressman Paul Ryan Rally With Kid Rock at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich.

5: People watch the debate on Oct. 16.

Financial collapse helped Obama in '08, but this year? Not exactly

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶The players from 2008, left, and 2012.

In September 2008, the presidential campaign was rumbled by a Wall Street meltdown that would give the candidates a chance to prove their mettle. Four years later, Hurricane Sandy would do the same.

According to Chris Galdieri, a political science professor at St. Anselm College in Goffstown, N.H., both unforeseen events favored Barack Obama. "The financial collapse really gave Obama a chance to pass the commander-in-chief test, because he was very calm, he looked and acted like someone that you wouldn't be upset to have in charge during a crisis."

The response to Hurricane Sandy also allowed the president to prove his leadership.

The down economy was a defining topic in both campaigns; the Great Recession in 2008 versus the "sluggish recovery" of 2012. Where John McCain took the hit in 2008, Obama has been held accountable ever since.

Galdieri said it is difficult for Romney to attack on a sluggish recovery because doing so acknowledges there is a recovery at all. But it's no walk in the park for Obama. "This is not Bill Clinton in 1996 or Ronald Reagan in 1984, where they had a booming economy and sky-high approval ratings."

Unlike Obama's easy ride from nomination to the resounding defeat of McCain, he has held only a marginal lead over Romney. The POTUS also is running on his record rather than the 2008 motifs of "change" and "yes, we can."

"When you are just a candidate, people can project just about anything off of you," Galdieri said. SR/METRO

Metropolitik

GRAHAM WILSON

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

WE'LL BE HAPPY WHEN $1B SOAP OPERA IS OVER

Asking a political scientist to write about an election campaign before the results come in is like asking the theater critic to file a review of a play at intermission. But's its also good to sit down and think about what this campaign has meant and how it has gone, independent of the results.

First, isn't everyone glad it is over? We've been told that the results depend on "a handful of undecided voters." I bet there are many more undecided than people who are still enjoying this campaign. The question I'd ask is what are the costs and benefits of having a campaign that has been going on full speed since January and, in practice, before that. Mitt Romney started to run against Barack Obama almost three years ago. Some would say that long campaigns are useful because during them we learn so much more about the candidates and their positions. It's hard to make that case this time. I don't think even Mitt's most ardent supporter is clearer on his positions on topics such as the environment, tax allowances or abortion than when he started out. We'll come back to the financial costs of the campaign. For now, let's just think about how the length of the campaign has imposed costs in terms of governing — hard choices deferred, compromise subordinated to getting a good sound bite to use in commercials, et cetera. Of course, this applies to decisions about the government's budget and the economy, but it also affects decision-making on foreign policy. Other democracies get by with much shorter campaigns. It really isn't fundamental to democracy that the system work this way!

Second, it sure was expensive. The price tag of $6 to $7 billion is huge. I know it can be argued that we spend as much advertising automobiles, laundry detergent and other products, but there's no way around the fact that $6 to $7 billion is a lot of money. Raising that money takes a lot of time and requires paying a lot of attention to donors that could have been spent on voters. In our politics, as in many other aspects of our society, the super rich have gained in importance and leverage. There's plenty of blame to go around here. Obama destroyed the practice of presidential candidates relying on public funding in 2008 when he realized he could raise much more money than public funding would provide. The Supreme Court's infamous Citizens United decision in the name of free speech deliberately opened the floodgates to more spending by people or groups laughably said to be independent of the candidates. People like Sheldon Adelson have bought themselves plenty of free speech this time around, much of it spent on negative attack ads. By the end of October, Adelson has spent more than $54 million going after Obama. That's a lot more "free speech" than most citizens can afford!

Quoted

There's no way around the fact that $6 to $7 billion is a lot of money. Raising that money takes a lot of time and requires paying a lot of attention to donors that could have been spent on voters. In our politics, as in many other aspects of our society, the super rich have gained in importance and leverage.

Third, the candidates, the parties and the groups certainly continued to believe the experts' advice that negative advertising works. Yes, we all say we hate negative advertising, but research shows people remember it. It's not surprising, therefore, that we get so much of it. Here in Massachusetts, we had the odd spectacle of Sen. Scott Brown, even while describing himself as a fence-building moderate, running constant personal attacks on his opponent, Elizabeth Warren. If Brown has won by the time you read this, score another one for the argument that going negative and personalistic works!

Fourth, doesn't this campaign show yet again how pernicious the Electoral College is? We don't know yet if the undemocratic difference between the popular vote and the Electoral College vote we saw in 2000 will re-emerge this year. We do know that all the attention of the presidential campaigns in the last few weeks has been concentrated on a handful of states. If we'd abolished the Electoral College, the candidates would have behaved very differently. We'd have seen Romney campaigning in California and New York because there are a lot of potential Republican voters there. We'd have seen Obama campaigning in Texas because, although they're a minority in the state, there are a lot of potential Democratic voters there. In a USA that's worried about polarization, wouldn't this have been good for the country?

Was there anything positive to be learned or said about this campaign?

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

From their mouths to your ears: A campaign in quotes

Quoted: Romney

Romney

"President Obama promised change, but he could not deliver it. I promise change, and I have a record of achieving it."

A FAMILIAR LINE FROM ROMNEY DURING THE CAMPAIGN

GETTY IMAGES

Romney's campaign

Powell

"I think when you have somebody of your own race that you're proud of being president of the United States, I applaud Colin [Powell] for standing with him."

ROMNEY CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR JOHN SUNUNU'S STATEMENT ON POWELL'S ENDORSEMENT OF OBAMA DREW SOME REBUKE. SUNUNU LATER CLARIFIED HIS REMARKS.

Bloomberg

Bloomberg

"Rather than uniting the country around a message of shared sacrifice, he engaged in partisan attacks and has embraced a divisive populist agenda focused more on redistributing income than creating it."

NYC MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG SAID OF OBAMA BEFORE ENDORSING HIM

Obama

Obama

"When it comes to our foreign policy, you seem to want to import the foreign policies of the 1980s, just like the social policies of the 1950s and the economic policies of the 1920s."

OBAMA TOLD ROMNEY DURING THE THIRD AND FINAL PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Biden

Biden

"Osama bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive."

VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN SAID DURING CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, TOUTING OBAMA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GETTY IMAGES

Obama's campaign

Palin

"The Romney campaign is so desperate to change the subject that they've gone back to the failed playbook co-authored by Sarah Palin and Joe the Plumber."

CAMPAIGN SPOKESWOMAN JEN PSAKI SAID, REFERRING TO ROMNEY ATTACK ON OBAMA'S 1998 COMMENTS ABOUT RE-DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

SOLOMON D. LEACH
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From Iowa until today's closing bell: What a 10-week roller coaster

Jan. 3 & 10: Gov. Mitt Romney wins the Iowa Caucus and New Hampshire primary, establishing himself as the candidate to beat. (The final count would show Rick Santorum as the actual Iowa winner by 34 votes.)

May 29: Romney clinches the Texas primary and locks the nomination.

June 28: The Supreme Court upholds key provisions of the President Barack Obama's health-care law, a staple of Romney's attacks.

July 13: "If you've got a business, you didn't build that," Obama says, fueling a firestorm of attacks and the theme of the Republican Convention: "We Built It."

July 25: Romney is skewered in the British tabloids after calling preparations for the London Olympics "disconcerting." Days later in Israel, Romney says he wants to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Aug. 30: Romney accepts the nomination at the GOP convention, preceded by Clint Eastwood, who speaks to a chair representing an invisible Obama.

Eastwood

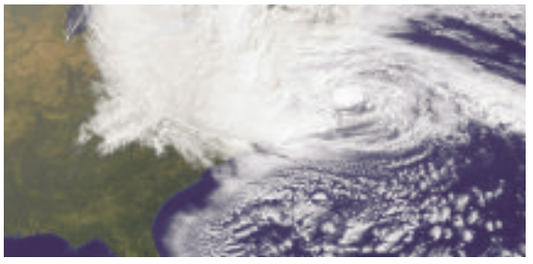
Sept. 11: Militants attack the American consulate in Benghazi, killing Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. Romney criticizes the President.

Sept. 17: Mother Jones magazine uploads a secretly recorded tape of a private Romney fundraiser from May. In his estimation, there are 47 percent of Americans "who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims," he says.

Oct. 3: Romney scores a resounding victory in the first debate, taking a four-point lead among likely voters in a Pew poll. Obama's lackluster showing is thrashed by supporters. "This is what happens when you pick John Kerry as your debate coach," tweeted filmmaker Michael Moore.

Moore

Oct. 16: During the second debate, Romney says it took the president 14 days to call the Benghazi attack an act of terror. Moderator Candy Crowley interjects: "He did, in fact, sir."



Oct. 22: Obama galvanizes his base in the final debate. Responding to Romney's claim that the Navy has fewer ships now than in 1916, he remarks, "we also have fewer horses and bayonets."

Oct. 29: Hurricane Sandy hits the East Coast. Obama's response draws praise from top Romney surrogate New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who says: "I cannot thank the president enough for his personal concern and compassion."

SIMON RIOS/METRO

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Britney Spears: The blond Jane Austen

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ "It's Britney Austen, b—."

There's a trend in book publishing where a superstar gets paid buckets and buckets of cash to "write" a book and people actually read it thinking it's the fruit of their favorite celebrity's labor (see: **Snooki**, **Lauren Conrad**, **Bethenny Frankel** and the **Kardashian** sisters). The latest to join their ranks? **Britney Spears**, who is reportedly in talks with It Books. That's according to The Hollywood Reporter, which writes, "Britney Spears is close to signing a book deal ... with plans to write a novel ... The story would incorporate fictionalized versions of her own experiences."

Her own experiences and not, say, a supernatural teen romance? Actually, Spears' life — spawning with a back-up dancer from Fresno, **Sam Lufti**, shaving her head, being under the conservatorship of her father — is on the level of Shakespeare (you know Lady Macbeth would be a former Mouseketeer if "Macbeth" were written nowadays).

Write from the heart, Britney! Don't let your underpaid ghostwriter tell you what's what! But in all honesty, you know if Spears wrote from the heart, the whole

Sam Worthington arrested in Atlanta

"Avatar" star **Sam Worthington** had a bad Saturday night. Not only was he arrested, he was also hit with pepper spray by a doorman to top it all off.

TMZ reports that Worthington, who is in Atlanta filming "Ten," which co-stars **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, became unruly when he was denied entrance to a restaurant. According to the police report, a witness told cops Worthington became disorderly, pushing a doorman who responded by pepper spraying the star and handcuffing him until the cops came.

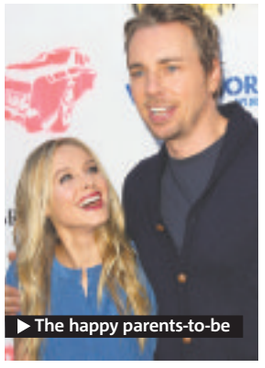
MTV plans Sandy 'Shore' benefit

The cast of "Jersey Shore" is hosting a one-hour fundraising special to help the New Jersey Shore on Nov. 15 at 11 p.m. from MTV's Times Square studio. The network says money raised will go toward rebuilding Seaside Heights, N.J., where the reality TV show was filmed. Cast members will appear in the special as well as other yet-to-be announced guest stars.

Talking points

Bell and Shepard are expecting a baby

They may have vowed to put off tying the knot until same-sex marriage is legal again in California, but engaged couple **Kristen Bell** and **Dax Shepard** are reportedly not waiting to start a family. Sources tell People magazine that Bell is pregnant with their first child, due in the spring. "They're so excited — they're both ecstatic. They can't wait to become parents," the source says. "Kristen had a little bit of morning sickness early on, but she just started shooting the second season of 'House of Lies' and is feeling great now."



▶ The happy parents-to-be

Will Beckham be a talk show host?

David Beckham may be looking to add talk show host to his list of job titles, as two different TV companies have reportedly offered him his own show, according to the Daily Star. "We want David on board whether or not he continues to play for the [L.A.] Galaxy," a source close to one of the companies, Time Warner Cable, says. "We are on our way to becoming the world's biggest sportscaster, and he is a key part of our future." Time Warner has reportedly offered him a "multimillion-dollar" contract, prompting the Fox Sports network to make an offer of their own.

Osbourne talks double mastectomy

Sharon Osbourne has revealed that she recently underwent a double mastectomy because of a genetic predisposition to develop breast cancer, she tells Hello! Magazine. "I've had cancer before, and I didn't want to live under that cloud," she explains. "I didn't even think of my breasts in a nostalgic way. I just wanted to be able to live my life without that fear all the time."

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kevin Nealon is feeling curious, Jim Carrey has a disturbing vision of the future, Rihanna is feeling a sense of accomplishment and Lindsay Lohan is having a rough day.

@kevin_nealon
Do they have an Americatown in Bejing?

@JimCarrey
In the near future we'll only be able to communicate through devices. Actual human contact will be outlawed by the Apple iCourt.

@rihanna
Man my album is complete, and I need a f---ing drink and a roll up! It was quite the journey, but it's all part of our story!

@lindsaylohan
my twitter was hacked, please ignore the last tweet.

Jim Carrey

Seeing red

1 Considering her new album is titled "Red," it comes as no surprise that **Taylor Swift** is in love with the color. Here she is in a beige dress with red accents by Jenny Packham at the 46th Annual CMA Awards on Thursday.

2 **Chris Isaak** performed at City National Grove of Anaheim on Aug. 1 in a spiffy red coat.

3 **Oprah Winfrey** danced in her red shoes during "O You!" presented by O, The Oprah Magazine, at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Oct. 20.

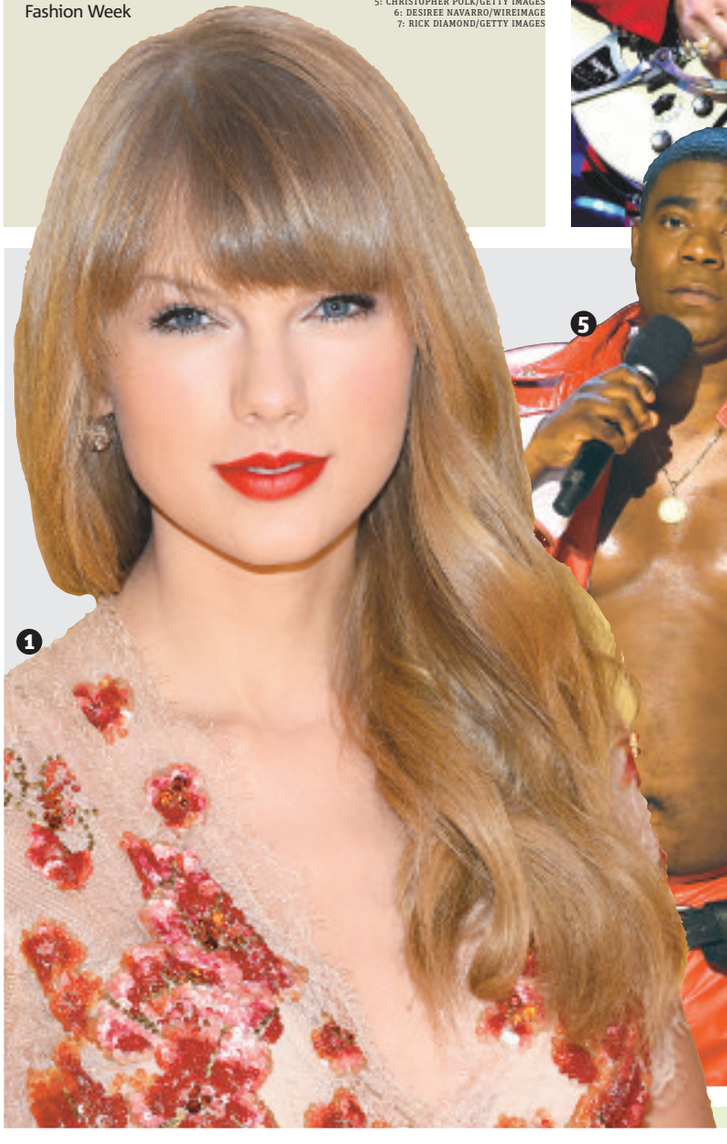
4 **Amanda Seyfried** donned a red frock as she left the Miu Miu Spring/Summer 2013 show as part of Paris Fashion Week on Oct. 3 in Paris.

5 Looks like **Tracy Morgan** forgot his shirt while at Spike TV's "**Eddie Murphy**: One Night Only" at the Saban Theatre on Saturday in Beverly Hills.

6 Nice bandana, bro: **Bret Michaels** hit the "All-Star Celebrity Apprentice" Season 13 Press Conference on Oct. 12 in New York City.

7 **Jennifer Nettles** and her very red baby bump performed during the 2012 Country Christmas concert on Saturday at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. The special airs Dec. 20 at 9 p.m. on ABC.

1: SARA KAUSS/ABC VIA GETTY IMAGES
2: ALLEN BEREZOVSKY/GETTY IMAGES
3:BEN ROSE/WIREIMAGE
4: MARC PIASECKI/WIREIMAGE
5: CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY IMAGES
6: DESIREE NAVARRO/WIREIMAGE
7: RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES



Anna Goldfarb's tall tales

In her new memoir, the blogger and author attempts to get her love life, career and living situation under control It doesn't go as planned

Try as she might, Anna Goldfarb just can't seem to get her life together. Her attempts at dating, love and finding gainful employment are met with hilarious results that she chronicles in her new memoir, "Clearly I Didn't Think This Through: The Story of One Tall Girl's Impulsive, Ill-Conceived, and Borderline Irresponsible Life Decisions." She took a break from writing on her blog, Shmitten Kitten, to answer a few questions from us.

First of all, how tall are you? And how do you explain your obsession with men shorter than you, which is an ongoing theme in your book?

I'm 6-foot-1, which, as everyone tells me, is really tall for a woman. I've always loved shorter guys. The first time I remember noticing a hot short guy was Michael J. Fox in "Back to the Future." I was in third grade at the time and once I saw him in those purple Calvin Kleins, I was like, "I am definitely interested in everything I'm looking at here." I still am!

What is the best thing about dating? The worst?

The best thing about dating is the elation of discovering someone new. Riding in his car for the first time, hearing about his job after he has a tough day, meeting his little sister; those are exciting things in a way. It's an excuse to try new restaurants and expose someone to my favorite spots in town too. The worst part about dating is the awkwardness when a date doesn't go well and he's already incorporated into my social media world. I wish I could just erase him from all networks with one swipe!

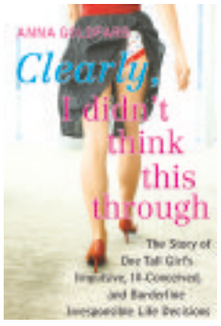
Are you a better dater now that you're in your 30s? Or is it harder?

I'm a better dater in the sense that I know what it takes to have a successful date; paying attention to which bars and restaurants to suggest for a fun night. It's harder too because most men my age have either settled down or are so set in their ways that they don't open themselves up to meeting someone new.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

If you go

Anna Goldfarb with A.J. Jacobs, David Rees, Courtney Maum
Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
McNally Jackson
52 Prince St.


ANNA GOLDFARB
Clearly, I didn't think this through
The Story of One Tall Girl's Impulsive, Ill-Conceived, and Borderline Irresponsible Life Decisions

Anna Goldfarb

TV watch list

Election coverage

SPECIAL. The only thing you, responsible adult reader, should be watching tonight is coverage of the poll results. Nearly every network will be devoting the night to the election, including Comedy Central, which will air special editions of "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" (11 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., respectively) dedicated to choosing our next leader. So really, you now have no excuse.
7 p.m., Multiple networks

GETTY IMAGES

It's all led up to this — election night!

'Tattoo Nightmares'

REALITY. So your candidate isn't faring too well in the results? If you do need to take a break from the election, perhaps no show will distract as much as this: Tonight's episode dedicated to bad ink is titled "Butt Pirate."
11 p.m., Spike TV

'Chopped'

REALITY. Chefs show their do-gooder sides by helping out in their communities. "Chopped" may also refer to what either President Obama or Mitt Romney will be after tonight.
10 p.m., Food Network

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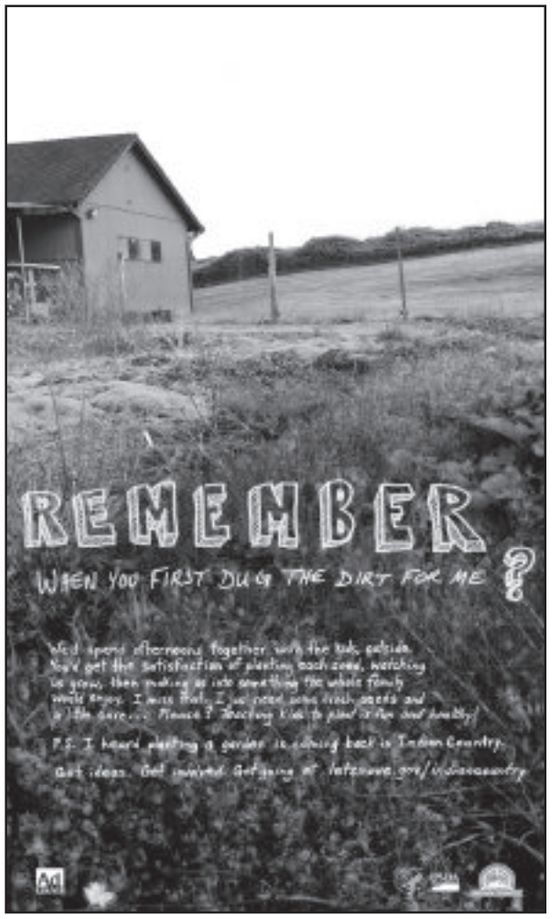

PAULA COURT

▶ Five actors play 13 different roles in Big Dance Theater's "Ich, KurbisGeist," now through Nov. 10 at the Chocolate Factory in Long Island City.

Smash and stab in Pumpkinville

Big Dance Theater conjures a malignant pumpkin
Halloween might be over, but this is one fascinating, visually arresting play you won't want to miss

When People for the Ethical Treatment of Pumpkins gets on the case, Big Dance Theater's "Ich, KurbisGeist" is sure to be Exhibit A. Brilliant actor/director Paul Lazar and choreographer Annie-B Parson, with writer Sibyl Kempson, create "an old-tyme agricultural vengeance play for Halloween," in which the squeals of the round orange victims resound in barns and fields, and ghosts of Jack o' Lanterns past haunt a whole town.

Thirty spectators sit on swivel chairs in the center of a grotty basement, while scenes from this twisted pumpkin pageant unfurl against all four surrounding walls. The theater becomes an incredibly focused Halloween environment, with old coots and pretty young things muttering in Kempson's barely understandable pre-Scandinavian tongue, hinting occasionally at intelligible English. But the tongue is always in cheek; events turn from vicious to clever in the blink of an eye.

Five performers play 13 characters in the hour-long piece; the title creature, Pumpkinspirit himself, appears only on video, deftly narrated and projected by Brendan Regimbal. A sketchy family of farmers tells stories, hurls insults, even dances at a wedding. Pumpkin seeds and slime collect underfoot, and a certain odor, familiar from childhood carving, wafts in the air.

"Ich, KurbisGeist" is funny, serious and scary at once, endlessly interesting visually and verbally. No retail plants are harmed; the troupe has its own pumpkin patch and was assisted in planting by volunteers from Goldman Sachs and Moody's. But the carnage, still spectacular, assaults all your senses. It's a perfect outing for this disruptive season: Hop on the 7 train and put your name on the waiting list.

ELIZABETH ZIMMER
elizabeth.zimmer@metro.us

If you go

▶ **Big Dance Theater's 'Ich, KurbisGeist'**
Through Nov. 10
Wed-Sat at 8 p.m
The Chocolate Factory
5-49 49th Ave., Long Island City, 212-352-3101
$15 and up
www.chocolatefactory theater.org

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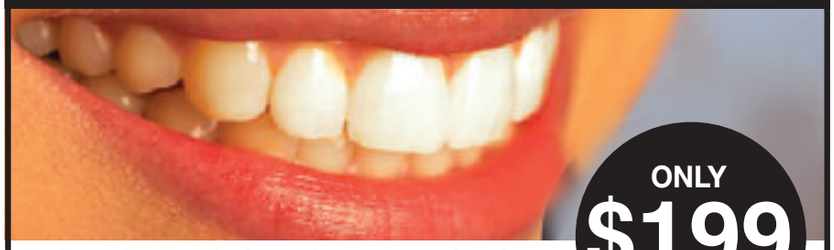

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Sartorial politics

As Barack Obama and Mitt Romney make their final arguments, we size up their style statements

The grooming

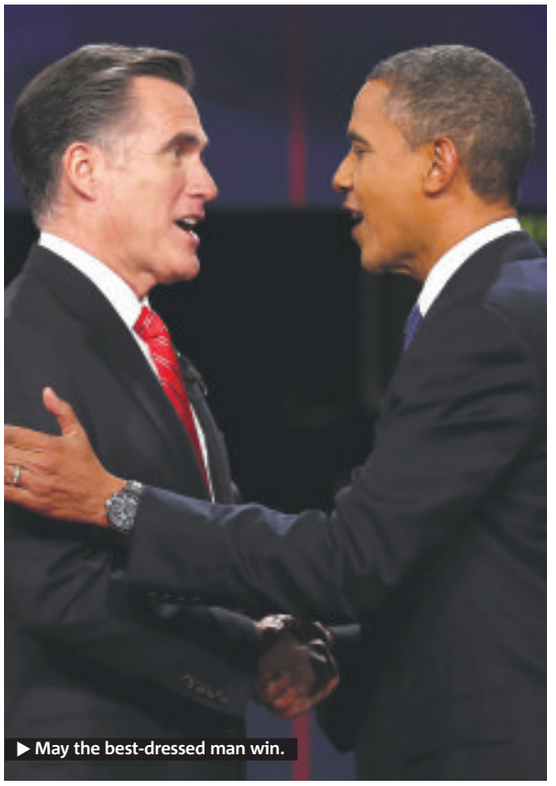
Showing the strain: It can't be easy running the country and a campaign. The stress of it all is visible in Obama's sallow eyes and gaunt complexion. Chug a cappuccino — the finish line is near.

The shirt & tie

The incumbent president's rolled-up sleeves and crumpled shirt is an attempt to transcend the divide between white- and blue-collar workers. It's a contrived look, but voters always prefer a people's president — and Obama is just that.

The suit

No jacket is a politician's way of saying the gloves are off. But the cinched waist and pleated trousers make Obama look like he's been missing his morning protein shake.



▶ May the best-dressed man win.

The Leader of the Free World isn't meant to be a fashion plate. We'd rather see him with his sleeves rolled up, sorting out the economy, after all. And yet, we expect the president to look distinguished and stately. It's a fine balance to strike. We size up the opponents. MWN

The grooming

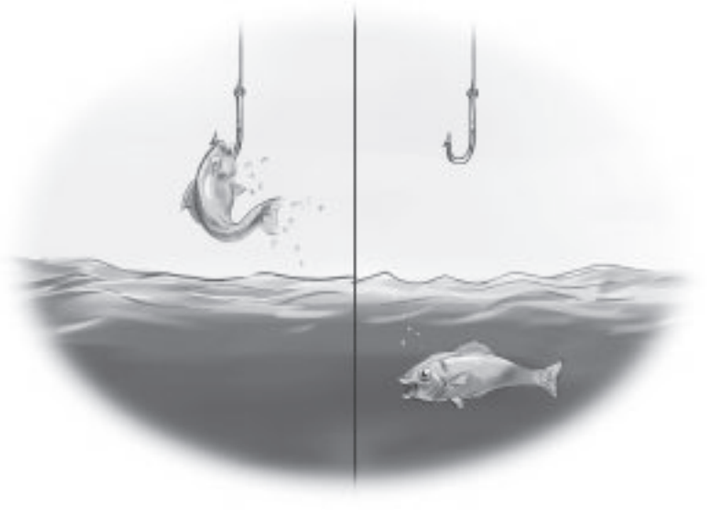
Throughout the campaign, the one sure thing Romney has going for him is his perfect hair. He also has a reassuringly strong jawline, but we've seen how he feels after a barrage of political punches.

The shirt & tie

The 65-year-old's looking a bit scrawny around the neck, but the shirt's a pretty good fit. However, the neatly rolled sleeves are boardroom length (rather than, say, for any physical labor), while the zippy tie screams country club.

The suit

Ack! More drab old slacks. Here his are belted high, with the shirt billowing at the waist. Romney, there's no excuse: You can afford the finest — and a stylist to boot.



"off the hook"

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myparenting

5 tips for infant massage

LIDDLE KIDZ

▶ For more information on infant massage, visit www.liddlekidz.com.

There are many benefits of massage for your baby — and for you Tina Allen, the foremost expert on infant massage, on how to implement this with your little one

LIDDLE KIDZ

▶ Massage can help you bond with your baby.

Spending just a few minutes each day massaging your baby can help to increase the bond, interaction and communication between the two of you. But how do you start? Tina Allen, an internationally respected educator, author and expert in the field of infant and pediatric massage therapy, shares her advice.

1 Choose the best time and place. Creating the best environment for massage is an ideal way to give yourself and baby time to relax. Choose a familiar place that is warm, quiet and with few distractions. The best time for massage is when baby is awake, healthy and happy. Some babies prefer the morning, while others prefer the afternoon or before bedtime.

2 Be comfortable. Relax, enjoy and have fun! Position yourself so that you are comfortable. Be sure baby is safe and placed on a soft area. Keep in mind that babies roll and become slippery when using oil. Be sure your hands are warm and clean before you begin.

3 Consider a massage oil. While it is not required, using oil can help make massage more enjoyable for some babies and parents. Olive oil and grapeseed oil are some of the best choices for infant massage. However, if you choose to use lotions, be sure to choose a nontoxic option, like Seventh Generation baby lotion, which contains olive oil as a main ingredient.

4 Listen in. Infant massage can be a wonderful tool for increasing your communication. Massage is not something that parents do to their baby, but rather with their little one. Listen to your baby. He or she will give you the signals to let you know his or her comfort level.

5 Know when not to massage. Never provide massage when your baby isn't receptive to it (when sleeping, crying or fussy). Avoid massage when your infant is ill, has a fever or infection, or if your little one has broken skin, a rash or bruising. Wait at least 48 to 72 hours following immunizations, and for a tummy massage, wait 30 minutes after eating. If your child has any special health care needs, seek further guidance as to what would be the safest approach. METRO

Healing touch

Benefits for baby

- Encourages healthy weight gain
- Increases brain development and growth
- Stimulates all systems of the body
- Aids in digestion
- Eases discomforts associated with gas, constipation and congestion
- Helps baby learn to trust caregivers

Benefits for caregivers

- Increases confidence in parenting and caregiving skills
- Provides a special time to bond with baby
- Encourages communication with baby
- Provides an opportunity to learn baby's cues
- Promotes the release of nurturing hormones

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Keep calm and be a parent

As a parent, you want to help your kids understand the world they live in, even when that world gets shaken by an instance of extreme weather

How moms and dads can help their little ones through natural disasters

Gathering the family around a candlelit table can sound quite cozy — until it gets scary. For many parents on the East Coast this week, the normal stress of parenting has been affected by loss of power, evacuation and a widespread devastation in some areas. During extreme weather like Hurricane Sandy, parents are burdened with trying to find information about loved ones and, in many cases, assessing the damage. At the very least, kids out of school get cooped up and bored.

Dr. Dawn Huebner, a child psychologist and author of a "what-to-do" series of guides for children, says that the most important thing for parents to remember during an emergency situation is to keep separate what they are experiencing from their children.

"Parents are going to be seeking out information and wanting to watch the news or listen to reports or looking at the devastated sites. All of that is terrifying to children."

Top techniques

Tips for parenting during extreme weather from Dr. Dawn Huebner, child psychologist and author:

- **Use "feelings words" when talking to children.** Acknowledge that something is scary or sad, addressing uncertainty.
- **Give reassurance that the family is safe, if that is true.** If disaster is striking, parents can assure children that they will take care of them and that police and city agencies are working hard.
- **Maintain routines.** Children can be especially clingy or show regressive behavior during extreme weather. Routines should be maintained as much as possible.

Huebner says parents should try and be as calm and reassuring to their children as possible. Even for families who have been evacuated, Huebner says parents can try to reassure children that the family is safe. If the situation is dire, focusing on how the family will get through the challenging part is a good technique.

Sometimes extreme weather can give a family a chance to shine together. For Erin Zammett Ruddy, a blogger for Parenting.com and mother of two kids ages 2 and 5, keeping the children occupied is key. Ruddy's family lost power during Hurricane Sandy for days — she was one of the 450,000 Long Island residents without electricity — but she is grateful to be able to make her home a de facto clubhouse for her friends and relatives. Ruddy is a big believer in keeping the family's routine going as much as possible, a trait Huebner recommends.

"We made sure they have still been having their eating and sleeping and napping routines," Ruddy says.

COURTESY OF ERIN ZAMMETT RUDDY

▶ Erin Zammett Ruddy's children created a fort in their house with blankets to sleep in while the power was out.

By now, most schools in the region affected by Hurricane Sandy will have returned to classes. Lara Pasternak, a drama teacher at I.S. 61 in Corona, Queens, sees the hurricane as a way for students to empower themselves and give back to communities. "I work in an area that's economically depressed, but no matter how little the students have, they are very generous," Pasternak says, adding that donating and volunteering is an essential lesson in humanity and civic duty.

JULIA FURLAN
letters@metro.us

Say Goodbye to Painful Varicose Veins!
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Letters

letters@metro.us

Is Conn Carroll conning us all?

RE: "THERE'S NOWHERE TO HIDE FROM US POLITICS AS USUAL" (METRO, NOV. 5) According to news columnist Conn Carroll, if Obama is elected, he'll be unable to negotiate with the (expected) Republican House. Of course, he doesn't even mention how Romney will deal with the (also expected) Democratic Senate — but I guess we should just assume it'll be a love-fest.
JUSTIN WARNER, VIA E-MAIL

I suppose that it's a good thing that Conn Carroll's conservative political biases are so obvious and up-front, because that's the only aspect of his column that is honest. Everything else is pure distortion — or outright lies. He starts in the second paragraph, saying something about a slew of policy objective that "almost everybody believes would lead to economic catastrophe," which is only true if you only count Fox News and Karl Rove. Carroll goes on to talk about an alleged tax hike, when in fact that's largely the expiration of Bush-era tax cuts targeted mainly at the very rich, as well as cuts in defense spending, which are mostly targeted at obsolete Cold War-era weapons and programs, which the Pentagon itself says it doesn't need anymore.

I particularly liked how Carroll demonized Mrs. Obama's exhortation to their supporters that they must never retreat into complacency, portraying active citizenship as a burden. This is particularly ironic, given that an informed, involved and constantly activist electorate would be the Republicans' greatest nightmare.
GARY L. DAY, VIA E-MAIL

Conn Carroll says that the 'fiscal cliff' is "an impending economic and political disaster" of Obama's creation. A disaster because it is going to cut spending or increase taxes next year by $660 billion if no action is taken. It was actually a bipartisan creation of Congress and the president designed to bring down the deficit. Republicans who attack the president for the "fiscal cliff" are hypocrites. Just last year they were pushing for a balanced budget amendment, which Democrats blocked. If Republicans had their way, we would have no tax increases and be making horrific cuts of $1.1 billion or more next year, a much more disastrous fiscal cliff.
NATHAN ISRAELOFF, VIA E-MAIL

EPA deserves to be on list of agencies to be thanked

RE: "TAXPAYERS FUND HEROES, TOO" (METRO, NOV. 5) I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiments of AJ Castilla's letter, and I'd like to add the Environmental Protection Agency to that list. They deal with all the hazardous and noxious stuff that spills into the water and air after a disaster. They also get your drinking water and waste water systems back online.
And to show efficient government agencies can be, NYC's MTA has the subways up and running weeks ahead of projection.

I gladly pay my taxes because of the services provided by the great men and women who are loyal public servants.
A. REY, VIA E-MAIL

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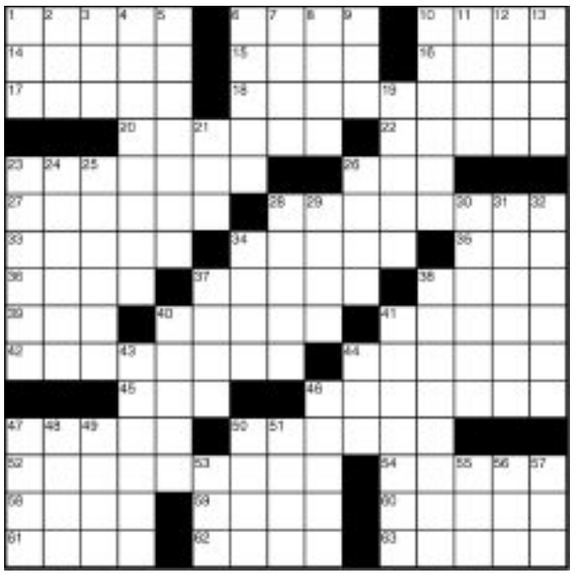
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** When it comes to career matters, what you know is of far greater importance than whom you know. Trade on your experience and capabilities, not on your social contacts.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Be careful, because a friend's well-meaning advice might be more emotional than practical. If you're in dire need of good counsel, seek the opinions of a pal with a level head.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Being a bit too susceptible to other people's viewpoints could quickly get you off course. Instead of relying on other people's opinions, follow your own.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** It's OK to be as frank as possible when dealing with others who need the facts. The truth might be a tad abrasive, but it could turn out to be less harmful in the long run.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** This could be a rather disruptive day, in which you might have to deal with more unexpected changes than usual. Deal with each crisis separately, and everything will be manageable.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** When you start to demand perfection from others, you had better be prepared to be flawless yourself. Your slightest mistake will be held up to ridicule.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Several significant objectives can be achieved if you have the necessary fixity of purpose. However, in going about your business, you need to be careful that you don't sacrifice efficiency for speed.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Guard against being overly possessive of friends and/or loved ones. Even if you are one of their favorites, they need the chance to socialize with all kinds of people, just as you do.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you plan to do a little shopping, take along one of your more tight-fisted friends who can help you monitor any extravagant urges.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** When your decisions are based upon practical premises, your reasoning is usually sound and effective. Allow sentiment or emotion to dominate, however, and it could be another story.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Keep in mind that prices aren't always carved in stone. If there is something you'd like to buy but you think is too expensive, don't hesitate to haggle for a better deal.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Make it a point to keep your nose out of a close friend's commercial affairs unless you're invited to do so. By the same token, don't let anyone get in your business. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 "Kundun" setting
6 Luggage fastener
10 Wide yawn
14 — — the run (grab a bite)
15 "Dies —" (Latin hymn)
16 Shuck peas
17 Turbaned seer
18 Not for real
20 Glimpses
22 Zany
23 Turkish inns
26 Torme or Gibson
27 Sips slowly
28 Golf stroke (2 wds.)
33 Was quietly angry
34 Raise the sail
35 Caesar's 1,002
36 Not do
37 Thai money
38 Mete out
39 Curse one's folly
40 2.2-pound units
41 Like a tablet
42 Riverbank burrowers
44 Ravenous
45 Frozen Wasser
46 Diplomacy
47 Photographer — Adams
50 Euclid and Plato
52 Movie extra (2 wds.)
54 Lab slide dye
58 Wings, in botony
59 Modern trolley
60 Cugat specialty
61 Atlas abbr.
62 City near Stockton
63 Campaign for election

Down
1 Brown of renown
2 Hem's partner
3 — — standstill
4 Writer W. — Maugham
5 Licorice-like flavoring
6 Platter players
7 Indy champ — Luyendyk
8 Kangaroo pouches
9 Caress
10 Horror flick roles
11 Em, to Dorothy
12 Survey chart
13 — May Clampett
19 Feckless
21 Qt. parts
23 Tell
24 Waikiki wear
25 Rome's legions
26 Overlook
28 Pacific salmon
29 Bangs into
30 Some Laotian immigrants
31 Crude carriers
32 Wild tee shirt (hyph.)
34 Sentry's bark
37 Prejudice
38 Doesn't cook (2 wds.)
40 Whale's diet
41 Big game fish
43 Zoo employee
44 Speed off
46 Physicist Enrico —
47 Blind as — —
48 Giza's river
49 Milky Way unit
50 Pita sandwich
51 Leafed through
53 Maj. ocean
55 Dallas campus
56 "Big Blue"
57 Doze off



	6	2		7				4
	1				6			8
					5			1
	3	9		2	8		1	5
1	7		5	3		4	6	
9			1					
5			7				4	
7				5		9	2	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

		7	4		8	1		
		2	1				8	
4			5	6			3	
		1						9
3		9				8		4
8						6		
	8			7	4			1
	7				1	5		
		4	3		2	7		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to yesterday's crossword

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Rediscovering the Azores

The little-known island region of Portugal offers big rewards for curious travelers Swim and hike by day Drink a glass of local wine at night

The rocky coastline meets warm, turquoise waters in Pico Island.

REBECCA FINKEL

You can be forgiven for never having heard of the Azores. On the travel shelves of most bookstores, titles will skip straight from Australia to the Bahamas. But this tiny archipelago in the middle of the Atlantic is overdue to become a destination for travelers seeking unspoiled subtropical terrain that wears its history on its sleeve.

What to do

Because of the variety of terrain, there's plenty to do, from hiking to scuba diving. If you're drawn to the water, the Azores has plenty of public swimming areas carved into the craggy basalt shoreline. And this former whaling capital now draws some of the Atlantic's best whale and dolphin watching.

With nine islands to explore, it helps to consult a company that customizes tours to your interests and abilities. We like **Picos de Aventura (www.picosdeaventura.com)** in Ponta Delgada and **A Abegoaria (www.a-abegoaria.com)**, serving the island of Pico.

What to eat and drink

"Meat or fish?" is often the question come dinnertime. Because of its location, seafood is the centerpiece of many Azorean menus. But beef from the island's free-roaming cattle is also a good bet. Some of the best restaurants are tiny, side-street cafes, where the prato do dia (dish of the day) and a glass of local wine will only set you back 5 euros. Spanish settlers brought grape plants to the islands at the end of the 15th century, and much of the original viniculture methods have been preserved, creating crisp whites and rich reds. The islands have a similar history with wine's best friend: Each island produces its own excellent regional cheese.

What to see

The first thing you'll notice are the many shades of Azorean blue: the clear sky, the persistently blooming hydrangeas and morning glories, and the deep turquoise ocean stretching undisturbed for more than a thousand miles in all directions. Each island has its own geographical marvels, such as the 7,713-foot-high dormant volcano that gives Pico Island its name and the hikeable lava tunnels beneath, and the steaming hot springs in Sao Miguel.

Where to stay

Aldeia da Fonte's rambling seaside property includes a private seaside bathing area, a spa and an old whaling lookout tower. Be sure to enjoy a glass of local vino verdelho at the lovely outdoor bar **(www.aldeiadafonte.com)**.

Where to eat

- **Ancoradouro** in Magdalena, Pico Island: Traditional fare and local wine served with views of the ocean
- **Anfiteatro** in Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel island: Modernist remixes of regional dishes, such as cinnamon-spiked blood sausage
- **O Gato Mia** in Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel island: A hip, intimate bistro in the Azores' most cosmopolitan city
- **O Venancio** in Angra do Heroisma, Terceira island: A cafe where locals spend Sunday afternoons chatting over the catch of the day
- **Peter Cafe Sport** in Faial, Horta island: A cozy bar that attracts sailors from all over the world and is famous for its gin and tonic

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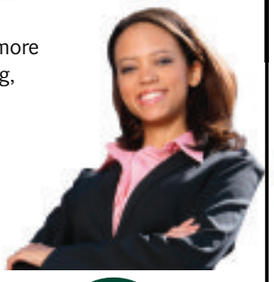

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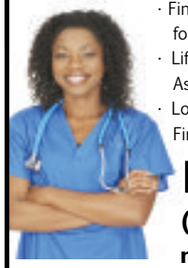

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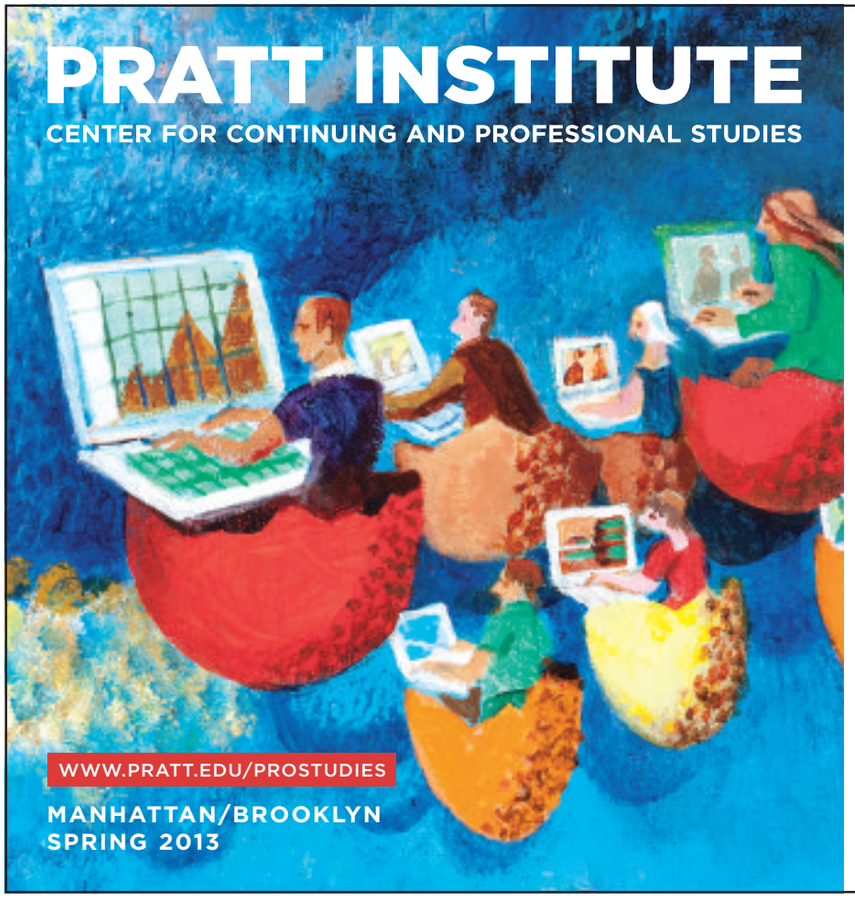

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3

Jets return to work still feeling Sandy

Ryan, many players without power as they prepare for game at Seattle
Some got out before the storm Team focuses on finding its identity

The return to normalcy has begun for the Jets, many of whom are still trying to recover from the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Unlike their crosstown rival the Giants, last week was a bye for the Jets, which proved to be a double-edged sword. Some, like nose tackle Mike DeVito, were able to escape before the storm swept through the area. Others, like cornerback Anontio Cromartie and even head coach Rex Ryan, were pinned down by the storm.

"You have to make sure you take care of your family; that's first and foremost, obviously. Yourself probably second and this team third," Ryan said yesterday. "Our organization does a tremendous job of helping our players any way they possibly can, but in this situation our players are no different than anybody else in the community, and that's the way it should be. And those are things everybody in the area have to deal with, and our players aren't exempt from that."

JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, center, met with first responders from New Jersey prior to Sunday's game at MetLife Stadium.

Ryan says his home, 10 minutes away from the team's facility, has no electricity. Cromartie was without power for two days and unable to leave the area with his children. Joe McKnight is still without power, and others, such as Ellis Lankster, sat in lines waiting for gas, like everyone else.

"It was a strange bye week, but at the same time we got a little time off, a little time away," said Yeremiah Bell. "For the most part, it was good to recap where we've been so far and where we need to go."

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ryan

Jets search for identity off bye week

Head coach Rex Ryan's self-proclaimed "best team I've had since I've been the coach here" is currently 3-5 as they search for their identity coming off a bye week.

"We're turning the ball over; we're fumbling the ball away. The red-zone turnovers have been really costly, obviously, because you're taking points off of your board and in some cases putting them on the other team's board," Ryan said. "On defense, things are really not to our standards with our red-zone defense and our third-down defense. Our run defense is not where we want it to be. It's improving, but it's not where we want it to be." METRO/KD

In the news

Vegas beating

The Giants lost on Sunday, but some fans still walked away winners.

Sunday's slate of games was one of the worst in betting history, according to experts. Eight favorites covered the spread.

Kevin Bradley, spokesman for gambling site Bovada.lv, called it "one of, if not the, worst NFL week for a book that I have witnessed in my 18 years as a bookmaker." METRO

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Manning blames himself

It had been less than 24 hours since the Giants blew a 10-point fourth-quarter lead to the Steelers, and most of the players and coaches at the practice facilities just wanted to move on, specifically when the topic was the toothless offense.

"I don't have a lot to add from what I said [Sunday] night," head coach Tom Coughlin said. "Last night was frustration and disappointment combined, and, you know, I'm still disappointed today. The pain of regret, the remorse of opportunity missed, all those things mixed into one."

There have been several occasions in the past two weeks when quarterback Eli Manning and his favorite wideout Victor Cruz have looked disjointed. It's been a mystery, because of how fast the duo got out of the gates to start the season. But during key moments in Sunday's game, specifically on third downs, Manning and Cruz clearly blew assignments.

"They hopefully will get back on the same page. There was one, right at the end of the game, that looked like they were not on the same page, so that's all got to get ironed out," Coughlin said. "There's no way you can have a lack of communication and be effective in the passing game. It's got to be decisive. The timing's got to be perfect and it wasn't."

Manning put the onus on himself. His quarterback rating has plummeted in each of the last five games (from 103.3 against the Browns to 41.1 on Sunday), and his yards per attempt have also (as high as 10 yards per attempt to 5.2 against the Steelers).

"I've got to play better. I've got to make some throws, [but] I've gone through [bad] stretches before and bounced back," Manning said. "Offensively we have to play better. So, whatever you want to call it, I call it 'we just have to get better.'" TONY WILLIAMS

JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Eli Manning has gone back-to-back games without a touchdown pass for the first time since Weeks 3 and 4 in 2010.

48 Points allowed by the Giants in the last seven quarters after jumping out to a 23-0 lead over the Cowboys

Backcourt trio leads Knicks to third victory

Kidd, Felton, Prigioni combine for 30 points, 16 assists as New York beats Sixers second straight day Philly limited to 33 percent shooting

If the Knicks are going to slow down defensively, they haven't shown any signs of it yet.

Last night's 110-88 victory in Philadelphia was the third straight impressive performance for a now 3-0 Knicks team.

One night after Sixers guard Jrue Holiday went for 27 points on 11-of-18 shooting, New York shut him down as he went 4-of-12 from the field.

If the Knicks were going to be criticized for anything this season it was the departure of point guard Jeremy Lin. So far, the team hasn't missed him in the slightest thanks to the trio of Jason Kidd, Raymond Felton and Pablo Prigioni. The 35-year-old Prigioni, a rookie in the NBA, played his best game yet. He finished with 11 points and six assists in 25 minutes.

Carmelo Anthony was impressive again, scoring 21 points, but it was the backcourt which dominated. Even Ronnie Brewer, a temporary fill-in for the injured Iman Shumpert, posted a double-double.

JESSE D. GARRABRANT/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Raymond Felton scored 16 points and had eight assists in the Knicks' win.

24 Assists on 39 baskets made by the Knicks, and just seven turnovers — only four of which were committed by starters

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J.R. Smith, who publicly complained about coming off the bench this preseason, had his second straight impressive game with 17 points, seven rebounds and five assists and led the team in minutes played (34).

MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Budinger's 3-pointer with 38 seconds left gave Minnesota a seven-point lead.

Nets blow win against Timberwolves

Everything was going so right for the Nets in their second game — until the fourth quarter.

Brooklyn took a 62-47 lead into halftime and an 11-point lead into the fourth only to see it crumble away in a 107-96 loss to the Timberwolves.

The Nets even led by five, 95-90, with 2:41 to go, but only scored one free throw the rest of the way. They were outscored 32-10 in the fourth quarter. And to make matters worse, stars Ricky Rubio and Kevin Love are still on the shelf and J.J. Barea was also injured, though he played sparingly after initially being reported as out for the game.

57 Percent was what the Nets shot from the 3-point line, but they started the night 12-of-18 (67 percent).

It was Chase Budinger who closed out the game with a 3-pointer to make the lead 103-96 with 38 seconds left in the game.

Minnesota's top-three scorers of Nikola Pekovic, Budinger and Andrei Kirileno — who spurned his fellow Russian Mikhail Prokhorov to sign with the Timberwolves — combined to shoot 23-of-35 for 53 points. Kirilenko also had 10 rebounds and four blocked shots. Brook Lopez was unable to follow up his impressive opening game with just 13 points on 5-of-14 shooting. Deron Williams finished with 18 points and 13 assists. METRO

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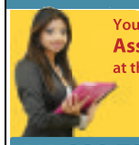
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